

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CPR-02 M-03 A-01

PER-05 PPT-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03

FAA-00 CU-04 RSR-01 /183 W
----- 094379

P R 031012 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0016

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0574

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS PFOR LYOO

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS: STATUS REPORT

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REF: A. TRIPOLI 0560 (NOTAL) B. TRIPOLI 0568

SUMMARY: SPECIAL LIBYAN INTERESTS APPEAR TO BE ERODING LARG POSITION; FRENCH AMBASSADOR ADVISED EARLIER IN PARIS THAT HE WOULD BE DENIED ENTRY, NOW REPORTEDLY HAS ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL BE ADMITTED WHEN HE SEEKS ENTRY LATER IN WEEK. DENIALS OF ENTRY CONTINUE AT TIA. SITUATION REMAINS FLUID. END SUMMARY.

1. IN REFTTEL B WE DESCRIBED DISAPPOINTING GO- AROUND MAY 2 AT MFA RE PASSPORT PROBLEM -- OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE SECOND SECRETARY READMITTED AND TO ENSURE POUCH EXCHANGES WITH COURIER AT TIA WILL BE UNIMPEDED. ON FIRST SCORE WE GOT NOWHERE. ABOUT COURIER WE ARE MORE OPTIMISTIC, BUT ACID TEST WILL TAKE PLACE THIS EVENING.

2. ACCORDING BRITISH SOURCES HERE AND IN PARIS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR GEORGY, WHO WAS DUE RETURN TO TRIPOLI MAY 2 WAS ADVISED IN PARIS BY LAR EMBASSY THAT HE WOULD BE DENIED ENTRY SHOULD HE APPLY THAT DAY. LATER GEORGY WAS ADVISED THAT HE AND " HIS COLLABORATORS" WOULD BE ADMITTED -- APPARENTLY EXEMPTED FROM LARG REGULATION. REPORTEDLY GEORGY AND WIFE NOW PLAN RETURN HERE ON/ ABOUT MAY 6. MEANWHILE NUMBER OF FRENCH NATIONALS WHO ARRIVED ON FLIGHT WHICH GEORGYS WERE TO HAVE TAKEN WERE ADMITTED, BUT SOME BRITISH AND PERHAPS OTHER NATIONALITIES WERE TURNED AWAY AT TIA.

3. EARLIER, MAY 1, AT LEAST TWO AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN, BEARERS OF VALID VISAS, WERE DENIED ENTRY AT TIA. SAME DAY ABOUT SIX BRITISH, ONE AUSTRALIAN, AND SEVERAL PERSONS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES WERE ALSO DENIED ENTRY.

4. INDICATIONS THAT OTHER SPECIAL INTERESTS MAY BE AT WORK ERODING LARG' S NEW HARD LINE SURFACED MAY 2 LOCALLY. ALITALIA WAS ADVISED BY LIBYAN AIRLINES THAT FOLLOWING FIVE CATEGORIES OF TRAVELLERS EXEMPTED REPEAT EXEMPTED FROM ARABIC IN PASSPORTS REQUIREMENT: (A) CREWS (PRESUMABLY CREWS OF AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS); (B) PERSONS EMPLOYED BY MINISTRY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT; (C) LARG GUESTS; (D) MALTESE (UNQUALIFIED); AND
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(E) PERSONS COMING TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN AND ARAB YOUTH (SCHEDULED BEGIN IN TRIPOLI MAY 12). THESE CATEGORIES -- INCLUDING APPARENT BLANKET EXEMPTION FOR MALTESE NATIONALS -- HAVE SLAP- DASH, AD HOC, EVEN TEMPORARY AIR ABOUT THEM. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT EXEMPTIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED OR, IF SO, HOW LONG THEY WILL BE HONORED.

5. OTHER INDICATIONS THAT EROSION OCCURRING TAKE FORM OF LETTERS SIGNED BY PM JALLUD AND/ OR REPEAT OR PETROLEUM MINISTER MABRUK. ARAB COLLEAGUE OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN DENIED ENTRY (PARA 3 ABOVE) TOLD EMBOFF MAY 2 THAT LIBYAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ADVISED HIM ADMISSION " NO PROBLEM" IF APPLICANT CARRIES LETTER OF INVITATION FROM MINPET. SIMILARLY, INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN PREVAIL ON AUTHORITIES TO CONFIRM BY TELEPHONE THEY BONA FIDE EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN LARG AGENCIES ARE BEING ADMITTED. FOR EXAMPLE, AMCIT COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN WORKING WITH LIBYAN ARMY SPEEDILY ENTERED MAY 1 AFTER SUCH TELEPHONE CALL PLACED BY TIA AUTHORITIES. AT SAME TIME, CURIOUSLY, TECHNICIANS' SPOUSE WAS DENIED ENTRY. SPOUSES HAD TO PART AT TIA (TO APPARENT SATISFACTION OF ALL INVOLVED).

6. LARG AUTHORITIES ARE PROVING ARBITRARY IN APPLYING REINFORCED PASSPORT REGULATIONS. INSTANCES OF " LENIENCY", APPARENT DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF SOME NATIONALITIES, PLUS THRUST OF MFA CIRCULAR NOTE DATED APRIL 30 (RECEIVED BY LOCAL MISSIONS FIRST ON MAY 2) MAY BE CALCULATED SHATTER NASCENT CD SOLIDARITY IN OPPOSING REGULATIONS. DIFFICULT TO GUESS HOW OR WHEN SITUATION WILL JELL. TO DATE LARG HAS BEEN CALLING ALL THE SHOTS WITH IMPUNITY. JOSIF

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